

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Steven Bellone
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 17, 2016

Dear Neighbor:

I am writing to you not only as Suffolk County Executive but also as a Town of Babylon resident and a parent in the Babylon School District about an issue of the utmost importance, protecting our kids and families from sex offenders.

During my time as Babylon Town Supervisor, we took a leadership position on the sex offender issue. We sued to end the terrible practice of housing more than a dozen unsupervised sex offenders at the former Brook Motel on Sunrise Highway in North Babylon. We created the first GIS mapping system in New York State to track sex offenders living in the Town of Babylon. And we also became the first municipality to utilize town code enforcement officers to verify whether sex offenders were living where they reported on the Megan's Law Sex Offender Registry. We took all of these measures because I believed it was our obligation in government to do everything we could to protect our community.

When I took office as Suffolk County Executive in 2012, I took all of my experiences in Babylon and all the lessons learned and developed the Community Protection Act (CPA), the nation's toughest sex offender enforcement, monitoring and verification program. Adopted in 2013, the CPA created a public-private partnership with Parents for Megan's Law, utilizing retired law enforcement officers to monitor sex offenders living in Suffolk County.

Since passing the Community Protection Act:

- Nearly 300 Facebook pages (over 200 of them Suffolk County registrants) have been removed by Facebook after leads were provided by CPA staff;
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Level 2 registrants and more than 94% of Level 3 registrants are in compliance with photograph requirements, up dramatically since before the law took effect;
- The Parents for Megan's Law sex offender management team has conducted over 10,000 in-person home verification visits for Level 1, 2 and 3 registrants;
- Nearly 95% of Level 2 and Level 3 offenders were brought into compliance through home address registration. Nearly 91% of Level 2 and Level 3 registrants were brought into compliance with work address registration requirements;
- Compliance with sex offender registration in Suffolk County has reduced recidivism by 81%.



The Community Protection Act is working!

That's why I'm so alarmed that the Community Protection Act is currently under assault by sex offenders unhappy with the level of monitoring that we do in Suffolk County. Multiple lawsuits have been filed by sex offenders and organizations supporting them in an effort to strike down the Community Protection Act.

We need New York State to enact legislation that will protect the Community Protection Act and allow Suffolk County to continue our work protecting kids and families from sex offenders. **Please go to: www.facebook.com/SteveBellone** to sign our online petition urging New York State to protect the Community Protection Act and close the sex offender loophole by prioritizing passage of sex offender legislation in the next legislative session.

Fortunately, we have great support from our local state representatives, including State Senator Phil Boyle and Assemblyman Joe Saladino as well as our local leaders like Babylon Village Mayor Ralph Scordino and Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer.

I also want to commend Babylon School District Superintendent Linda Rozzi and Suffolk County Police Commissioner Tim Sini for their efforts to address the recent sex offender issue in the community. Superintendent Rozzi is also working with PTA President Robyn Silvestri and community leader Theresa DePietto-Roesler, executive director of Hope Floats, to hold a school forum this Wednesday, on October 19th, featuring Laura Ahearn of Parents for Megan's Law. Under the Community Protection Act, Suffolk County funds educational presentations by Parents for Megan's Law in schools across our county in an effort to arm parents with the tools and knowledge they need to help protect their families.

We owe it to our children to do everything we can under the law to keep them safe. **Please join me in calling for the strengthening of our sex offender laws in New York State by signing our online petition at www.facebook.com/SteveBellone.**

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



STEVEN BELLONE
Suffolk County Executive